

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01881 281636Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----281642 075024 /45

O 281606Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 147

S E C R E T BOGOTA 1881

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, CASC, ASEC, CO  
SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF PC VOLUNTEER

REF: STATE 043230

1. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A HUMANITARIAN APPEAL WOULD NOT BY ITSELF CONVINCE THE FARC TO RELEASE STARR AND WE ALSO THINK THAT SUCH APPEALS AT THIS TIME RUN THE RISK OF MAKING THE FARC CONCLUDE THAT STARR IS EVEN MORE VALUABLE THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT AT FIRST. WE DO, HOWEVER, THINK THAT HUMANITARIAN APPEALS WOULD BECOME IMPERATIVE IF FARC OPTED, AS IS POSSIBLE, TO PUT STARR ON "TRIAL" FOR THE PURPOSES OF A SUBSEQUENT "EXECUTION." IN SUCH A CASE WE THINK WE SHOULD PULL OUT ALL STOPS, TURNING TO ALL THE CONTACTS WE COULD REACH WHO FIT THE DESCRIPTION IN PARA TWO REFTEL. WE COULD ALSO TURN TO THOSE COUNTLESS PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE WORK OF PC VOLUNTEERS HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A NATION-WIDE APPEL FOR HIS SAFETY. TO REPEAT, WE DON'T THINK THAT THIS BY ITSELF WOULD LEAD FARC TO RELEASE STARR BUT WE THINK THERE WOULD BE A CHANCE THAT THIS MIGHT DETER THE FARC FROM "EXECUTING" HIM FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES.

2. THE CONSIDERATIONS AND ESTIMATES CONTAINED IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH WOULD ALSO APPLY, IN OUR VIEW, WITH RESPECT TO APPEALS

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FROM STARR'S MOTHER. HOWEVER, IF SHE WERE HERE, WE THINK SHE MIGHT UNWITTINGLY PLAY INTO THE FARC'S HANDS, EITHER BY GETTING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM OR BY PRESSING THE USG AND/OR GOC TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE KIDNAPPERS.

3. AS FOR THE DEPT'S QUERY ON POSSIBLE INTERMEDIARIES, EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE ACQUAINTED WITH SOME PROMINENT MARXIST

INTELLECTUAL WHO WE THINK MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP IN CONTACTS WITH  
THE FARC. WHILE THEY MIGHT SERVE AS INTERMEDIARIES, WE CAN NOT SAY  
THAT THEY WOULD "COMMAND FARC'S RESPECT". INDEED, WE DOUBT THERE IS  
ANYONE OUTSIDE THE SOCIETY OF TERRORISTS HERE WHO WOULD FIT  
THAT DESCRIPTION.  
SANCHEZ

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRORISTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, CASC, ASEC, CO, PC, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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